The Government of J & K have further informed that the progress in absorption of the stipendiary engineers in the State Government as regular Junior Engineers has depended upon the availability of the adequate number of posts. However, in 1988, their monthly stipend had been fixed at Rs. 1620 for Degree Holder and Rs. 1300 for Diploma Holder.

Job Reservation for persons belonging to Minorities

932. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that 25 per cent of jobs have been reserved for persons belonging to minorities by the Government of Assam;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government was consulted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of advice given; and

(d) whether such reservation is also proposed to be given in other parts of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Illegal detention in Tihar Jail

933. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in Indian Express dated the 3rd April, 1992 under the caption "Tihar Jail only one iiicgat detention, Mr. Jacob" wherein cases of several detenus in Tihar Jail. Delhi has been cited; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. ,M. JACOB): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Smuggling of essential commodities from West Bengal to Bangladesh

934. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale smuggling of essential cornmodilies from West Bengal to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during the last six months; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to stop such activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER 0F STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. jM. JACOB): (a) and (b) The Government are aware of smuggling of essential commodities *item* West Bengal to Bangladesh. 2416 cases were detected by the Border Security Fore* daring the period from September, 1991 up to February, 1992.

(e) All feasible efforts are being made by the Border Security Force to choek smuggling. The Government of West Bengal have issued certain instructions to the District Officers of the border districts to check the smuggling activities including restricting issue of wholesales licence/per-mit/registration certificate for dealing in essential commodities controlled by the State Government within 8 km. belt along the border, enforcement of prohibitory orders under the Essential Commodities Act, conducting raid,s, promulgating prohibitory orders under Section 144 Cr. P. C. in border areas, discontinuing unauthorised markets and hats in the border areas etc,